

**MINUTES  
MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2005**

President Perna began the meeting at 7:30 a.m. held at Freedom Hill County Park.

In Attendance:

James M. Perna, President  
Gasper Salerno, Vice-President  
Ann E. Klein, Secretary  
Dino F. Bucci Jr., Sgt. At Arms  
Fran Gillett  
Anthony J. Lipinski  
Peter J. Lund  
Timothy M. Malone  
Dolores Thomas, representing Anthony Marrocco  
Marvin E. Sauger

Absent:

Betty Slinde

Others Present:

Anthony G. Casasanta, Sharon Quinn, and Dave Humbyrd of Macomb County Parks & Recreation; Jim Meyerand, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Kevin Cassidy, Hillside Productions

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY LIPINSKI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ADDITIONS: UNDER NEW BUSINESS ADD SPONSORSHIP REVENUE TO 2004 PARKING RECAPS, ADD E. VETERAN'S MEMORIAL WALL DISPLAY AND MAKE F. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

George Parker of Sterling Heights asked questions about financial statements concerning the 2004 parking and hoped to hear explanations of charges.

Fran Parker asked how Hillside got approval to collect parking fees at the Park. Also expressed concern to keep parking rates the same this year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY GILLETT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2005. MOTION CARRIED.**

BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Casasanta commented there were no major revenues or expenses at the park.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY SALERNO TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

## CORRESPONDENCE

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY LIPINSKI TO RECEIVE AND FILE CORRESPONDENCE. MOTION CARRIED.**

## OLD BUSINESS

### Parks and Recreation 2005 Winter Report

Mr. Casasanta reported that the 2005 Winter Report is ready for mailing.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 2004 Parking Recaps & Sponsorship

Mr. Casasanta reported that the 2004 parking revenue went over \$500,000, but a charge was made for labor costs for collecting the parking that needs to be addressed by the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding parking charges and parking revenue as shown on the parking recap report.

Mr. Casasanta stated that he believed the Park should be able to collect parking fees cheaper than \$56,000.

President Perna stated there was never a discussion between him and Hillside on a parking labor cost of \$56,000 to be deducted from gross revenue.

Commissioner Lund stated to put into perspective the real cost to the County was \$1,768.25. If they hadn't rolled that cost in we would have just been over \$500,000 and would have received \$126,700. He further stated it is not just the money, as much as, where did the \$56,000 come from. Commissioner Lund stated it is time for us to collect the parking fees for everything and work on a system to handle it properly.

Mr. Meyerand asked Kevin Cassidy of Hillside, if the County auditor looked over sales figures for the 2004 concerts. Mr. Cassidy responded that Mr. Grzanka of the County Finance Office did conduct the 2004 audit at Hillside's trailer office and has since 2001.

Mr. Meyerand asked if Mr. Cassidy could tell the Commission about the \$56,000 parking labor costs. Mr. Cassidy responded there's a cost for doing the amount of events they've done and you need to look at the festivals on top of the concerts. Mr. Meyerand stated his question is more specific. "You need to tell these people if you know, how you get \$56,000, for 44 events this year, nobody collected any parking fees, Ticket master didn't even charge for parking fees, how do you get \$56,000?"

Mr. Cassidy responded, there is staff that's in place that hands out programs that are coming from the park. Mr. Meyerand commented that's not parking that's advertising.

Mr. Cassidy stated, “this isn’t a conversation that I am authorized to have with this group”. He stated he has tried to explain the \$3.00 charge on the ticket helps to get people off the streets.

Further discussion ensued.

President Perna asked for a motion to challenge the \$56,000.

Commissioner Salerno reminded the commission the history on collection of parking.

Commissioner Lund suggested to accept the fees as given by Hillside and notify Hillside that we will be responsible for collecting parking fees this season.

Mr. Meyerand, Corporation Counsel, stated two points: Hillside is not entitled to \$56,000 and there is no explanation on the \$56,000. As far as he sees it, there is no fee to be collected on prepaid parking.

Mr. Meyerand asked Mr. Cassidy if tickets have been sold this year. Mr. Cassidy responded there are no shows on sale.

President Perna pointed out that the contract does not address any costs to collect for parking. It states we get 25% to the County and 75% to Hillside of gross revenues with a guarantee of \$125,000 to the County or 25% revenue of half million dollars, whichever is greater. This contract doesn’t address anyone deducting costs.

Commissioner Malone stated per contractual agreement we are suppose to collect parking, if we do not collect it, paragraph 2 of the addendum has to be renegotiated in order to allow Hillside to collect it. So that would mean the contract has to be reopened.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY BUCCI, SUPPORTED BY MALONE TO TABLE THE 2004 PARKING RECAP REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 2004 Sponsorship Recap

Hillside paid \$10,000 in June of last year and the balance of \$12,100 was paid a month ago. For the 2004 season, the total revenue generated on our end of 50% of the sponsorship is \$22,100.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LIPINSKI, SUPPORTED BY LUND TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2004 SPONSORSHIP RECAP. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 2005 Parking Rates

Mr. Casasanta reported that in the last couple years for festivals the Park collected \$5.00, with \$1.00 rebate to sponsors and \$7.00 on car shows, with up to a \$3.00 rebate to sponsors. The difference in parking rates is that we do not charge rental fees to car sponsors and we receive food concession and parking revenue from car shows. Any rebates over a \$1.00 for festivals would need approval by the Commission.

A motion was made by Klein to table the 2005 parking rates.

Discussion continued.

Commissioner Klein withdrew her motion.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LUND, SUPPORTED BY MALONE THAT FESTIVAL PARKING RATES REMAIN AT \$6.00 WITH \$5.00 COLLECTED AND \$1.00 REBATE TO SPONSORS, AND CAR SHOW PARKING RATES REMAIN AT \$7.00 WITH UP TO A \$3.00 REBATE TO SPONSORS WITH NO DECISION ON PARKING FOR CONCERTS MADE AT THIS TIME. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mercurio Foods – 2005 Agreement

Mr. Casasanta recommended approving Mercurio's Foods for concessions at the Park and stated we have been receiving 25% of gross sales. We have been using Mercurio's Foods for concessions at our events for many years.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER TO APPROVE MERCURIO'S FOODS – 2005 AGREEMENT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS ADMINISTRATOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Italian Festival July 22-24, 2005

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY SALERNO APPROVING THE ITALIAN FESTIVAL, JULY 22-24, 2005. MOTION CARRIED.**

Veteran's Memorial Wall Display

Mr. Casasanta reported Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce requested to display the memorial wall at Freedom Hill over Labor Day weekend at no charge to the public. The Park has been requested to provide lighting over the memorial. The physical setup and security will be dealt with through outside agencies.

Commissioner Lund stated it should be made clear to the Veteran's memorial promoters that concerts may be conducted behind the park over the same weekend.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY GILLETT, SUPPORTED BY SALERNO TO APPROVE THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL WALL DISPLAY DURING LABOR DAY WEEKEND. MOTION CARRIED.**

OTHER

Letter of Support for Trail Application

Mr. Casasanta recommended a support letter from this Commission on a grant trail application that Huron Clinton Authority is doing for Stoney Creek Park.

This would help connect the Macomb Orchard Trail to a trail west of Macomb County, called the Paint Creek Trail.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY LUND, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER APPROVING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE GRANT TRAIL APPLICATION TO THE DNR TRUST FUND. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mr. Casasanta reported that road construction of 16 Mile Roads (Metro Pkwy) is scheduled to begin this spring east of Freedom Hill and continue through the summer months.

CLOSED SESSION

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY LUND TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED MEMORANDA.**

Roll call

	Yes	No
BUCCI	X	
GILLET	X	
KLEIN		X
LUND		X
LIPINSKI	excused	
MALONE	X	
THOMAS	X	
PERNA	X	
SALERNO	X	
SAUGER	X	
SLINDE	<u>absent</u>	<u>          </u>
TOTAL	9	0

**MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commission went into Closed Session at 8:50 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.**

President Perna adjourned the Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Klein, Secretary  
Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission

AK/sq